(c) and (d) The objectives for which the exercise was undertaken have been achieved.

Complications in the Way of Acquisition of weapons

514. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on defence opinion that complications are coming in the way of acquisition of weapons a high level Committee was appointed by Government.

(b) if so, the findings of such a Committee;

(c) whether Government have implemented its recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) The Government had set up a Committee in march 2000 headed by the Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) to suggest further streamlining of defence procurement procedure to ensure the twin objectives of accountability and expediency. In the meantime, the Government on 17th May, 2000 appointed the Task Force for review of the Management of Defence. This task Force was, *inter-alia, mandated to recommend such organizational and other changes as* considered appropriate to bring about improvements in the procurement process. The VCOAS had made a presentation before the Task Force. After considering the recommendation of the Task Force, the Government have approved creation of a separate dedicated institutional structure namely the Defence Procurement Board, which will undertake the entire gamut of procurement functions. This is expected to facilitate a higher degree of professionalism and cost effectiveness in the process and ensure closer participation by the armed forces in the entire process of decision-making.

Purchase of tanks, Warships from Russia

515. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had placed huge contract for billions of dollars worth of T-90 tanks, warships and sophisticated SO-30MKI attack figters to